



CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that the below listed items are being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to:

**Mail Stop Issue Fee
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450**

on

11-24-04

Jeffrey R. Kuester

In Re Application of:

Bedingfield, et al.

Serial No.: 09/513,005

Filed: February 25, 2000

Confirmation No.: 6967

Group Art Unit: 2645

Examiner: Foster, Roland G.

Docket No.: 190252-1580

For: Region-Wide Messaging System and Methods Including Validation of Transaction

The following is a list of documents enclosed:

- Return Postcard
- Issue Fee Transmittal
- Fee Transmittal
- Credit Card Authorization - Authorizing \$1370.00
- Amendment Transmittal Page
- Amendment After Allowance
- Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance
- Transmittal of New Drawings - within NOA
- Formal Drawings - 4 sheets

Further, the Commissioner is authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 20-0778 for any additional fees required. The Commissioner is requested to credit any excess fee paid to Deposit Account No. 20-0778.

Customer No.: 38823



PATENTS

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of:

Bedingfield *et al.*

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For: **Region-Wide Messaging System and Methods Including Validation of Transaction**

COMMENTS ON STATEMENT OF REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

Mail Stop Issue Fee
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

Sir:

The Examiner has made some broad conclusory statements in the Statement of Reasons for Allowance, which may be viewed as an oversimplification of the examination issues, and if taken out of context, could give rise to an improper interpretation of the claims as well as the file history. For these reasons, Applicant provides the following comments to vouch the record and to ensure proper interpretation of the claims and history.

First, while Applicant agrees with the Examiner that the stated reasons for allowance of claims are indeed proper grounds for allowance of these claims, there are other additional reasons why these claims are allowable over the prior art of record, and Applicant does not admit that the stated reasons for allowance are the only reasons for allowance.

Second, in accordance with 35 U.S.C. Section 282: "Each claim of a patent (whether in independent, dependent, or multiple dependent form) shall be presumed valid independently of the validity of other claims; dependent or multiple dependent claims shall be presumed valid even though dependent upon an invalid claim." Thus, the dependent claims that were not

addressed by the Examiner in the reasons for allowance should not rise or fall, when construed in terms of validity, with their respective independent claims, but instead should be construed independently of their respective independent claims.

Third, the scope and validity of each claim (whether in independent, dependent, or multiple dependent form) should be determined based upon the entire combination of elements/features/steps in each claim, as opposed to only the particular feature or features pointed out by the Examiner.

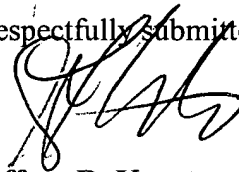
Finally, in the Notice of Allowability, the Examiner noted that the allowed claims are 1-14 and that these claims were formerly claims 13-26. In the discussion regarding the "Examiner's Reasons for Indicating Allowable Subject Matter" beginning on page 2, the Examiner discusses independent claim 1, which was formerly claim 13. The Examiner further discusses independent claim 19 and independent claim 20. Applicant respectfully notes that the independent claim 19 referenced by the Examiner is now independent claim 7, and that independent claim 20 referenced by the Examiner is now independent claim 8.

If, in the opinion of the Examiner, a telephonic conference would expedite the examination of this matter, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned agent at (770) 933-9500.

Date: _____

11-24-04

Respectfully submitted,

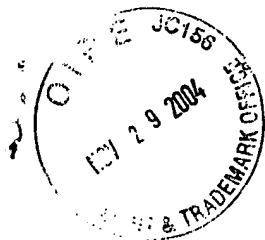


Jeffrey R. Kuester, Reg. No. 34,367
Attorney for Applicant

Docket: 190252-1580

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PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of: Bedingfield et al.

Group No.: 2645

Serial No.: 09/513,005

Examiner: Foster, Roland G.

Filed: February 25, 2000

Attorney Docket No.: 190252-1580

For: Region-Wide Messaging System and Methods Including Validation of Transaction

Confirmation No.: 6967

Date of mailing of PTOL 85 entitled
Notice of Allowance and Base Issue Fee
Due August 25, 2004

Mail Stop Issue Fee
Attention Official Draftsman
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

**TRANSMITTAL OF NEW DRAWING(S) TO CORRECT INFORMALITIES WITHIN
THREE MONTH PERIOD OF RESPONSE SET IN NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY
(PTOL 37)**

NOTE: Applicant may correct any informalities in the drawings made by the Draftsman's objections on PTO-948 by filing new drawings with the changes incorporated therein. If the filing of the drawings are delayed until receipt of the "Notice of Allowability" (PTOL-37) the new drawings MUST be filed within the THREE MONTH shortened statutory period set for response in the "Notice of Allowability" (PTOL-37). Extensions of time may be obtained under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a).

NOTE: Corrected drawings should be addressed to the Official Draftsman.

NOTE: Applicant is required to submit ACCEPTABLE corrected drawings within the three month shortened statutory period set in the "Notice of Allowability" (PTOL-37). Within that three-month period, two weeks should be allowed for review by the Office of the correction. If a correction is determined to be unacceptable by the Office, applicant must arrange to have an acceptable correction re-submitted within the original three-month period to avoid the necessity of obtaining an extension of time and of paying the extension fee. THEREFORE, APPLICANT SHOULD FILE CORRECTED DRAWINGS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. Notice of January 14, 1985 (105 O.G. 3).

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING (37 CFR 1.8)

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail, postage prepaid, in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

Date

11-24-04

Jeffrey R. Kuester

SUBMISSION OF DRAWING(S)

1. To correct the informalities in the drawings as noted in the Draftsman's objection(s) on PTO-948 applicant submits herewith new drawing(s) for this application. Number of sheets of drawings submitted 4.

NOTE: According to 37 CFR 1.84(1), identifying indicia (such as the attorney's docket number, inventor's name, number of sheets, etc.) not to exceed 2 3/4 inches may be placed in a centered location between the side edges within three-fourths inch of the top of the edge..

2. The three-month period of response set in the Notice of Allowability (PTOL 37) expires on November 25, 2004 and this submission is on or before this expiry date.



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